

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action dated November 3, 2004, in which claims 1-16 were initially rejected and several claims were objected to for minor informalities. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims in view of the above-amendments and the following remarks.

I. CLAIM OBJECTIONS

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 9, 12 and 15-16 were objected to because of minor informalities in the claim language. As suggested in the Office Action, terms such as "and/or", "they", "it" and "them", have been replaced to more clearly indicate the appropriate elements. With these amendments, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection to the above-identified claims be withdrawn.

II. CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER §103(a)

Claims 1-16 were rejected under §103(a) as being unpatentable over Gagne et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,011,562 in view of Yamamoto et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,664,965.

Claims 1 and 4 are independent claims. Claims 2-3 and 7-11 depend from claim 1, and claims 5-6 and 12-16 depend from claim 4.

Independent claims 1 and 4 are amended to recited that, "the visual elements symbolizing the behaviors [have] at least one input terminal to allow a connection with the objects or the characters or the objects and characters, at least one of the visual elements symbolize a behavior of waiting for a user's action, this visual element having an input or output terminal connected to another visual element symbolized behavior".

These elements are supported by the description of figures 2, 3 and 4. For example, the rectangular visual elements 18, 14, 23 and 24 symbolize behaviors. All of these elements comprise an input terminal and, possibly, an output terminal.

The elements 18 and 24 are waiting for a control message from the user, directly or indirectly.

With the embodiments of the invention as defined by claims 1 and 4, the designer of interactive animations is provided with a very ergonomic method. The method allows the designer to create an interactive animation quickly through the assembly of visual elements representing behaviors. One of these behaviors is a "waiting behavior" for an action of the user. It is no more necessary that the designer writes a program. It is sufficient that the designer assembles visual elements, for example rectangles (building blocks).

Since neither Gagne et al. nor Yamamoto et al. teach or suggest either separately or in combination the newly added elements of independent claims 1 and 4, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 1 and 4 and there respective dependent claims be withdrawn.

III. NEW CLAIMS 17-21

Claims 17-21 are added as new claims for consideration.

New claims 17 and 19 are supported in the specification on page 8, lines 3-5, which describe a "parametrable image". Moreover in figures 2, 3 and 4, element 14 has associated couples of symbols formed of six small triangles. Each one is over-lined by a small rectangle. These symbols correspond to a parametering. The same symbols appear above rectangle 23.

New claims 18 and 20 correspond to the description of figure 2, more particularly page 8, lines 8-10, for example.

New claim 21 corresponds to independent claim 1, except that the following passage is deleted: "the step of assigning the selected behavior to an object or to a character appearing on the graphic interface."

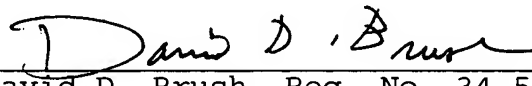
Consideration and allowance of these new claims are respectfully requested.

The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

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